

## SUMMER AMUSEMENTS

## OUT-OF-DOOR ENTERTAINMENTS VIE WITH OTHER ATTRACTIONS IN DRAWING WASHINGTONIANS.

After fifteen different plays had been produced by the Columbia Players, during their summer season, and each and every one of them had drawn big houses and proved both financially and artistically successful, it remained for "A Poor Relation" to make the biggest hit of them all. Compared to the artistic value of "A Poor Relation," all of the preceding plays, good as they were, seemed commonplace merely.

And the reason is that this old play, technically bad as it is, and in many respects impossible, exudes human nature and sympathy from every side. The audience on Monday night was at first disposed to be critical, mainly on account of the treasured associations of the leading role, and the common inclination of all theatergoers to resent an actor's superseding another or attempting to bask in the reflected glory of a distinguished predecessor.

Frederick A. Thomson seemed to feel this. The man himself is sensitive and intuitive. He made no visible effort to come to his audience. On the contrary, he began quietly to draw each of his auditors toward him—his art gradually thawed through the reserve, and at the end of the first act they were with him. At the close of the second, they almost rose at him, and at the end of the play he held them in the hollow of his hand. The actor has done many excellent things in the past—he is destined for far greater honors in his profession, but the success he achieved last Monday night, and his triumphal progress throughout the week, must have been peculiarly gratifying to him.

Up to that time he had only been a name; his influence had been felt, but not recognized; he was not one of the "favorites" of the Columbia Players' clientele; no bouquets had been passed him over the footlights and he had not received any ovations. After each member of the company had been given repeated opportunities to shine and each been put through his or her paces, Thomson came quietly forward and gathered in the honors for the most finished acting of the engagement. He did not even believe in himself as being fitted to undertake the role made famous by the lamented Sol Smith Russell. His candor in speaking of own shortcomings and unfitness, showed that egotism and assurance are not among his characteristics.

The frequent theatergoer knows the little follies of the actor. He witnesses

his many poses, his spectacular bids for attention. The egotist and the poseur soon becomes wearisome with his narrow knowledge, his limited and often offensive mannerisms, his almost insulting obstinateness. Such an actor often gets away with a few short weeks of popularity among the unthinking and indiscriminating. But the man who goes often to the theater and makes a study not only of types, but of the man behind the make-up, his intentions and his ideals, welcomes with open arms the evidence of stolidity, sincerity of purpose, of childish delight in winning approval. Great actors possess the common characteristics of all geniuses. The secret of their success is their simplicity—they are children—they live, so to speak, in a dream world—they can no more help being what they are than they can keep from breathing. Jefferson, Herne, Russell, Forbes-Robertson, were all great, big, overgrown children—steeped in the joy of living, and giving pleasure wherever they chanced to stray.

The natural actors are the ones who will hold attention and reap the benefits of their labors. They linger long in the memory as having given exultant pleasure to thousands; they become immortal because they tried to be no more than they were—they remained themselves.

A crestfallen lot of regular patrons will witness the curtain's fall on the engagement of the Columbia Players next Saturday night. Seventeen weeks of summer stock is a record that will not be broken for a long while yet to come—unless the Players themselves decide to break it. Only they could be successful in the attempt. A more satisfactory season of warm-weather theatricals than the Columbia Players have given Washington this summer cannot be imagined. They go away with the gratitude of the whole community. They have amused us continuously, and even the untamed delights of the regular season, so soon to be spread before us, will not fully compensate us for their removal. Every one will join in wishing that they may come back next spring prepared to win new laurels and smash more records.

Chase's opening this week will be the signal for much rejoicing among vaudeville patrons. The house has been most attractively redecorated, and will prove the rendezvous of many large and enthusiastic crowds during the months to come.

## THIS WEEK'S PLAYBILLS

## Chase's—Opening Week.

Chase's inaugurates its twelfth consecutive season to-morrow, and the manager, Miss De Witt, has prepared a housewarming of extraordinary nature with an initial bill including William H. Macart and Ethlynne Bradford, Edmond Stanley and company, the Great Lester, Fred Warren and Al Blanchard, the Sullivan and Pasquelena company. Rayno's famous thoroughbred bulldogs, the Flying Martins, and the double series of American vignette motion pictures, "An Inspiring Sunset" and "The Infant Terrible."

No advance tribute and no illuminating adjectives are needed to introduce the leading attraction, William H. Macart and Ethlynne Bradford in "A Legitimate Hold-up." Those vaudeville veterans who keep tab on current events are aware that these clever entertainers made an almost unprecedented hit lately in the big cities. Mr. Macart brings to his work a reputation for comedy possessed by few of the many invading the lucrative vaudeville field, as he was the principal comedian in "The Beauty and the Beast," "Mother Goose," "The White Cat," and other sumptuous Broadway extravaganzas. Miss Bradford is described as a beautiful comedienne, who wins the admiration of her audiences by her grace and magnetism. The supplementary leading novelty will be Edmond Stanley and company in Safford Waters' Oriental opera, "Love's Garden," a picturesque and laughable arrangement just suited to the taste of Chase's patrons. Probably the most surprising and sensational feature of the week will be the Great Lester in voice throwing comicdom of a character rarely seen. Fred Warren and Al Blanchard will be lauded as the moment they appear. The Sullivan and Pasquelena company are to offer "A C. O. D. Package," their greatest success. Rayno's famous bulldog comedians-acrobats will occasion exclamations of wonder as their feats and training take them into a sphere of amusement never before attempted by animal actors. The Flying Martins will thrill those who are fond of exploits that contain the dangerous element of personal hazard, and the double series of motion pictures will satisfy the requirements of the many who would not leave the theater without their measure of amusement and adventure in picture form.

Columbia—"The Girl from the Circus." The Columbia Players to-morrow night enter upon the seventeenth and last week of their successful season at the Columbia Theater. The play for the coming week is that fascinating farcical comedy from the pen of Sidney Fardel, "The Girl from the Circus," than which no play could better be adapted for the closing week of such an aggregation of performers as now constitute the Columbia Players. "The Girl from the Circus" is one of those delightful productions that made Daly's Theater memorable as the home of all that was best in dramatic art during the years of activity of the late Augustus Daly. It is a comedy rich in dialogue, brilliant in humor, abounding in action and with climaxes that are irresistibly funny and entertaining. The leading role, which will be assumed by Everett Butterfield, is one that has called for the best efforts of John Drew in the Daly production and Charles Hawtry in London. Playing opposite Mr. Butterfield, in the role of the circus girl, Louise Reed is sure to appeal more strongly than she has had the opportunity of doing heretofore, and in the fluffy costume of the "profession" is sure to be positively bewitching. But it is not alone with circus costumes that the appeal to the eye will be made, for the dresses to be worn by the ladies of the company are particularly beautiful and will make such favorites as Edith Luckett, Ruth Chatterton, Violet Kimball, and Ruth D. Blake more charming than ever. James A. Bliss, it appears, has located the fountain of youth, for he will shed the characteristics of age and become again an active, sprightly young artist, a part in which his Richmond admirers considered him at his best. Robert Cain and James W. Shaw will also be provided with agreeable parts that will enable them to

share in the approbation that will, without doubt, meet the presentation of "The Girl from the Circus."

## Academy—"Queen of the Outlaw's Camp."

Advanced melodrama is the description given to "The Queen of the Outlaw's Camp," which is to be the offering at the Academy for the week beginning to-morrow night, with the usual matinees on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, for this attraction is said to represent the latest step forward in the direction of perfecting the modern melodrama. The qualities that prompt this statement are the colorful and emotional style of melodrama in one, the emotional kind, with strong heart interest, vivid human nature, romance, exciting adventure, pathos, humor, and comedy, blended into the more recent development known as scenic melodrama, with its usual elaborate and novel scenic, mechanical, and electrical effects. The scene of its four acts is laid in the Rocky Mountain wilderness of Colorado and are said to present a colored and interesting depiction of the life, customs, inspiring scenery, and rugged characters of the Great Divide in the Rocky Mountains. The central character is Dora Wayland, daughter of an old outlaw chief, who leads her father's daring band, and is known as the "Queen of the Outlaw's Camp."

Gaiety Theater. There is something irresistible to the average theatergoer in a chorus of pretty, well-dressed young women, who can both sing and dance. They brighten any show and they set off the work, ability, and talents of the principals, just as the setting of a rare jewel displays it to the best advantage. In "Vanity Fair," which will be the offering at the Gaiety Theater, beginning Monday, August 23, the management has paid particular attention to the chorus. In this big company are such well-known artists as Billie Ritchie, Dick McAllister, Winifred Francis, Charles Carden, Clark and Turner, Nelda Noble, the Cycling Brumties, Walter Neuhe, &c. As an extra added attraction Conchita, the famous Hindoo Nautch dancer, has been engaged.

## Lyceum—"The Avenue Girls."

At the New Lyceum Theater for this week the "Avenue Girls" will be seen in an entirely new production, staged and produced under the personal direction of Shep Camp, and to his credit be it said in a most artistic manner. The title, "In Mexico," gives ample material for comedy situations, which are said to abound throughout the action of the play, and musical numbers by a chorus of very pretty misses, which are staged in a snappy and gingershy fashion. An innovation is a dance entitled "The Dance of the Inferno," which is creating the same amount of talk and attention here as it has in Europe for the past year. There are other specialties introduced, prominent among them being the "Peerless Quartet," Primrose and Roloff, comedy acrobats; the Demos aerial trapeze artists; the Three Dancing Sunbeams; Dora Davis, a dainty soubrette; Mona Raymond, leading lady, and Harvey Brooks, a singing comedian of no mean ability.

Mrs. Carter's Charities. There is no profession that is so called upon to devote its talents to charitable purposes as the theatrical profession, and in New York there is no actress called upon oftener or who responds more readily than Mrs. Leslie Carter. During the present summer Mrs. Carter has devoted herself to the work of her new production and so has been easy of access to any New York Institutions with an appeal to make. The result has been that she has been kept busy, in addition to her already arduous work, in performing at benefits for the crippled Hebrew children, for St. Joseph's Home for Shelterless Women, for the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum, the Golden Home Home, the Peabody Home for Aged Women, and for the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. She never demurs when called upon for any such causes as these, but many times has broken important social engagements so that her name and talents might swell the funds for the poor. "It is a great pleasure to me to think," she said, "that through such gifts as I have been blessed with I may do good to the poor. God knows we should all help one another in this weary battle of life."

## LOCAL STAGE NOTES.

Burton Holmes, of Travelogue fame, has also reached this country, and will begin his season (the week of October 11).

The attraction to follow Al H. Wilson at the Columbia Theater will be Edith Talleferro, in the sensational drama, "Polly of the Circus."

Everett Butterfield, as the impressionable benedict, and Louise Reed, as the circus girl, will probably carry off the honors of the Columbia offering, "The Girl from the Circus," this week.

President Frank Metzger, of the Columbia Theater company, will, following a short rest at his Montgomery County farm, make the trip to Boston by water. On the return trip he will stop in New York.

Fred Niblo, the chief of the White Rats and popular originator of Illustrated Travel Talks, has returned to his country with his charming wife, Josephine Colan, and begun preparations for his coming tour.

William Macart, the musical extravaganza comedian, starring in the Chase bill this week, is only in vaudeville for a brief excursion. Back to Broadway, says William, who likes "live ones" who appreciate his personage.

Lyman H. Howe's New York Hippodrome Travel Talks will this evening again be the attraction at the Columbia Theater, with an entire change of programme over that which proved so unprecedentedly popular last Sunday.

After fifty-one weeks of unprecedented prosperity, the Columbia Theater will close its doors Saturday night with the fall of the curtain on "The Girl from the Circus," for alterations that will be completed before opening of the regular season, September 13.

Fred G. Berger, manager of the Columbia Theater, left the city Thursday afternoon for a trip that will combine business and pleasure. He later will include an automobile tour in New York State, with his son, Fred G., Jr., after which they will camp in the Catskills.

"Metz in Ireland" is the title of the new play in which Al H. Wilson will open the regular season of the Columbia Theater, September 13. Mr. Wilson's admirers will find this play quite different from any in which he has appeared heretofore, while the musical numbers will prove delightful surprises.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS.

## Chase's—Polite Vaudeville.

Chase's next week will enter upon its second week of the new season. Foremost of all and offering a gem of laughable nonsense interspersed with mirthful music will be Cecil Lane and Florence Holbrook, who have caught the fancy of vaudeville theatergoers in much the same irresistible style as Irene Franklin and Eurt Green. They offer popular songs, baseball jargon, and other humorous material until, it is said, encores have been exhausted. The supplementary leading novelty will be the capricious Bromstick "The Life of Spies." And another principal offering will be the beautiful and talented cantatrice, Susanne Recsomora. A funny comedy sketch, "Huskies Run," will be played by the Walsh-Lynch company and its humorous and satirical material will be uproariously absurd. Charles and Fanny Van, the popular players, will appear in their latest hit, "A Case of Emergency." Other acts will be Hastings and Wilson, "Don," and the Wright brothers' aeroplane by the motion pictures. To-morrow the advance sale opens.

## The Academy—"Wanted by the Police."

"Wanted by the Police," by Langdon McCormick, will be presented at the Academy for the week beginning August 30. The play is described as a romance of love and the busy American life of today. With the attraction will be found the young romantic actor, Harold Wadsworth, who will be seen in the stellar role of "Billy West."

## OUTDOOR AMUSEMENTS.

## Luna Park.

Another week of big excursions to Luna Park will begin to-morrow, devoted to the State, War and Navy Department. On Wednesday the Patent Office clerks will be the hosts for the day, and on Friday will be the General Post-Office day. With the usual crowds these special department days are expected to bring to the Park the management has made extra arrangements for the amusement and comfort of patrons. This afternoon and to-night the American Regimental Band will render the customary sacred concerts under the leadership of Richard L. Weaver. The programme for the featured motion pictures in the airframe promises to be exceptionally interesting. These pictures, exhibited absolutely free to Park patrons, with additional illustrated songs offered by a talented vocal list, include such subjects as: "The Hero of the Franco-Prussian War," a beautifully clear picture of the battle of Sedan, showing the progress of a bitterly fought war; "A Mistaken Vocation," a screaming comedy film; "Quick, I'm On Fire," another really funny one; "A Four-footed Hero," of interest to animal lovers; "No More Children Wanted," the ridiculously funny schemes of a family to get children into an apartment without the landlord's knowledge, and "A Kind-hearted Policeman." On Friday night, on the magnificent pavilion, there will be a prize dance with a valuable prize offered to the best gentleman dancer. This will be, with one exception, the last opportunity offered this season for dance contestants to win a handsome prize as a reward for terpsichorean superiority.

## Lyman H. Howe Travel Pictures To-night.

With a record of having completely captivated an audience that last Sunday evening taxed the capacity of the Columbia Theater, Lyman H. Howe will this evening return to that popular house with his New York Hippodrome Travel Festival and an entire change of programme. Combining, as he does, the perfection of moving pictures exhibits with an equally accurate reproduction of the sounds incident to the action presented, Mr. Howe has raised his performance into the realm of a dramatic event that sways the feelings of his auditors as surely as did the creators of old. The features for this evening will include two wonderful series, depicting the entire process of making one of the great touring vessels of the world, the great battleship, and then the most realistic of battle scenes as witnessed from the fighting top of a battle ship while in action. The travel features will be especially strong, beginning with the wonderful unfolding of Canada's book of nature in winter, which for scenic grandeur far exceeds that to be found in most European countries, and leading the auditors through Europe on a flying trip, with glimpses of Paris, Rome and boulevards, and a thousand and one delightful other features, including picturesque Algeria, a series that commands admiration because of its barbaric, yet romantic scenery and strange and interesting life. The humorous features will also be found in abundance, rounding out a programme that will probably prove even more popular than did the starting offering of the previous week. Seats will be reserved by coupon and the scale of prices will be popular, as heretofore.

## PLAYS AND PLAYFOLK.

"The Dollar Princess" is to first see the light at the Apollo Theater, Atlantic City. The feature of Dockstadter's production this season will be "The Possum Aero Club."

With Dockstadter this season will be with Neil O'Brien, Al Jolson, and Eddie Mazer.

Edgar Selwyn has relinquished his role of "Pierre of the Plains" to Severyn Dedeys.

Frederick Paulding, the actor and playwright, will be a member of Lew Fields' company.

"Is Matrimony a Failure?" was produced at Atlantic City last Monday night by David Belasco.

Arba Blodgett has succeeded Frank C. Payne as general press representative of Henry W. Savage.

"Palling Leaves," the drama from the Italian, which the Shuberts produced last fall, may be revived.

Clara Palmer, now with "Havana," will shortly leave this place to begin rehearsing with "Old Dutch."

Louise Gunning, in "Marcelle," opens next Monday night in Atlantic City. Jess Dandy is being "featured."

E. M. Holland will play the part of Mr. Baxter in "Foreign Exchange," soon to be produced by the Lieblers.

The engagement of Nat M. Willis to Trixie Friganza is thought to be among the possibilities of the near future.

"Going Some," the Armstrong-Beach farce-comedy, resumed its tour last Monday evening at the Casino, Asbury Park.

Andrew Mack has signed a contract to appear under the management of Lew Fields, and will star in a new musical play.

Muriel Terry, who scored such a big hit in Henry W. Savage's "The Gay Hussars," is to be advanced to stellar ranks next season.

The only foreign character in Mrs. Leslie Carter's new play is that of Ben Ali, an Egyptian. The part will be taken by Mr. Charles Hayne.

Miss Marie Tempest's American tour in "Peepo," which will begin in December, has been so extended that it will continue until the end of April.

Eugene Cowles has been engaged by Lew Fields for the part of the general in "The House of Albert," the part originally played by William Pruette.

"The Florist's Shop," Oliver Herford's adaptation from the German, has scored a big hit in New York and is announced as one of the best and brightest of comedies.

Frau Marietta Olly, the "German Bernhardt," will begin her American tour, under the direction of the Shuberts, in October. She will be seen in Bernstein's "Baccarat."

Edwin Ardou has completed his tour with Marie Dora, and has been selected by Charles Frohman for one of the principal roles in "Israel," one of the season's novelties.

For her revised version of "Camille," which she will do at special matinees this season, Mrs. Leslie Carter has returned to New York this week to join the Eastern Company being organized for the Viennese operetta. The new "Merry Widow" company will begin its season with four performances at Asbury Park, beginning August 25.

Much of the credit for selecting the cast for "The Ringmaster" should go to Miss Portner, the authoress. It was she who named Miss Lauretta Taylor as well as Miss Oza Waldrop.

The character of Armond Duval in "Camille," which Mrs. Leslie Carter will produce in a revised version this season, will be played by that sterling English actor, Mr. E. J. Ratcliffe.

Amelia Bingham has decided to remain in London, where she will produce "A Modern Magdalen," by Haddon Chambers. Her vaudeville dates on this side have been canceled up to the first of the year.

The new independent theater in Boston, which will open in January, is to be called the Shubert. It is located on Tremont, opposite Hollis, and will cost over \$500,000. It will be operated in conjunction with the Majestic.

Lee Kohlman, who was the original of the lovelock German youth with Mr. Warfield in "The Music Master," has been engaged by Lew Fields for a similar part in support of Miss Blanche Bates in the forthcoming production of "The Yankee Girl."

Rehearsals of "On the Eve," Martha Morton's new play, began on Monday, August 16. On the same day rehearsals commenced for the two "Lion and the Mouse" companies, all of which will be under the direction of Mr. Henry B. Harris.

Thomas Thorne, who plays a prominent part in Kellert Chambers' comedy, "An American Widow," made his debut on the stage with Annie Russell at the Garrick Theater, New York, in "Mice and Men," as a super, at fifty cents a performance.

In making a new and up-to-date version of "Camille" for her own use this season, Mrs. Leslie Carter discarded all versions that had been used in this country and worked directly from the original MSS. in French by Alexandre Dumas, the younger.

In addition to booking the American theater, San Francisco, it is announced that the Shuberts will play their attractions in a second house which is to be built for them. The new theater will be located on the north side of Post, near Powell street.

Charles Frohman has transferred himself and his staff to Atlantic City, where he has been and will continue to make important productions, with try-out at the Apollo Theater. This is fine business, as large audiences are the rule at the popular Jersey resort.

A. W. Pinero has cabled Charles Frohman that he has now completed his new play, "Mid-Channel," which will be produced in this country with Ethel Barrymore in the principal woman's part. The rehearsals for the London production of "Mid-Channel" have commenced at the St. James Theater.

The rumor to the effect that William Winter, the veteran dramatic critic, will retire this season from active service and sever his long-time connection with the New York Tribune cannot be confirmed. But it is stated that Mr. Winter will devote his time exclusively to literary work of another character.

Grace Filkins, who will be leading woman in Henry B. Harris' production of "An American Widow," by Kellert Chambers, which will have its premier in New York on Monday, September 6, returned from a trip to England and the continent on Tuesday, August 3, to begin rehearsals. Miss Filkins was accompanied by her husband, Rear Admiral Marix, of the American Lighthouse board, to Europe, where he went to

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spect the methods employed by the European government in maintaining safeguards for mariners.

The production of "The Mouse Trap," which J. Hartley Manners is adapting from the German for the Shuberts, has been postponed on account of the fact that Mr. Manners has received a commission from the Shuberts to write a modern comedy, this week precedence over "The Mouse Trap."

Mabel Wilbur, after touring the Pacific coast as Sonia in "The Merry Widow," returned to New York this week to join the Eastern Company being organized for the Viennese operetta. The new "Merry Widow" company will begin its season with four performances at Asbury Park, beginning August 25.

A musical comedy of the coming season will be Oscar Hammerstein's production at the Manhattan Opera House of Wagnerian operas in French, "Lohengrin" and "Tannhauser," are to be so staged, with the specially interpolated scene in the latter which Wagner himself wrote for Parisian audiences.

That George Barnum, who plays a prominent part in "The Young Pollock's" new play, "Such a Little Queen," which Henry B. Harris produces at the Hackett Theater, New York, on August 30, made his London debut at the Strand Theater as the German count in "Why Smith Left Home," and was the hit of the piece.

Charles Frohman has decided upon the Hudson Theater for the first performance in America of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Fires of Fate," which has just had an extended season at the Lyric Theater, London. Mr. Frohman has definite assurance from Sir Conan Doyle that the author will come to America for the production.

The next time you go to see Mrs. Leslie Carter act, mark the name of what she appears, listen just before the curtain goes up, and you will hear, distinct but not loud, as in a French theater, three distinct raps. That is Mrs. Leslie Carter, a trick she learned from her friend, Mme. Sarah Bernhardt.

Next season Charles Frohman will add two stars to his already lengthy list. Although both of these are English-Germans, du Maurier and Irene Vanbrugh—they will each head separate organizations. Mr. du Maurier is now rehearsing his part in "Arsene Lupin" and Miss Vanbrugh the chief role she is shortly to play in Pinero's "Mid-Channel."

Mischa Elman, the young Russian violinist, who created such a sensation last season upon his first visit to our shores, will return for the months of January, February, and March, opening his season with a tour of twelve concerts with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, beginning January 4. The Elman tour will not extend farther west than Denver.

Maggie Fielding, one of the best known character women in America, and who will be seen this coming season in "An American Widow," was born in Greenwich, Scotland. She made her stage debut at the age of five with Mrs. W. G. Jones. Her first speaking part was Eva in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," alternating with Mary McVicker at McVicker's Theater, Chicago.

Rehearsals of "The Paradise of Mahomet," which will be the first spectacular musical production of the Shuberts for this season, are well under way. The music is by Planquette. Harry B. Smith has done the American book and Robert Smith the lyrics. The cast includes Adele Ritchie, Ralph Herz, John Bunny, Eva Davenport, Vera Michelena, Laura Guercio, Mabel Weeks, and Walter Lawrence.

William A. Brady's announcements, in addition to plans for Sir Beorhobn Tree's American tour, Grace George, and his other stars, detail his arrangements for his new star, Mr. Tim Murphy. "My Boy," Rupert Hughes' comedy, which Mr. Murphy produced with extraordinary personal success in Chicago last spring, will be the bill for his New York engagement, and before he leaves Broadway he will be seen in others of his successes, not yet named. "The Girl from the Circus," "Cupid and the Dollar," and "A Corner in Coffee." Before appearing in New York, Mr. Brady will present Mr. Murphy in twenty-eight cities in the South. Dorothy Sherrod will be his principal support.

## AMUSEMENTS.

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